

Appl. No. 10/657,629
Reply Dated January 26, 2005
Reply to Office action of Aug. 12, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Original): A method of moving motor vehicles between a first deck of a first railcar and a second deck of a second railcar coupled to said first railcar, the first and second decks being at different elevations, comprising:

reducing the difference between the elevations of the ends of the first and second decks by pivoting an end section of the first deck so that the end section angles toward the second deck; and

transporting the motor vehicles from the first deck to the second deck over a bridge plate extending between said first and second decks after pivoting the end section, with said pivoted end section acting to reduce the slope of the bridge plate.

Claim 10 (Original): A method in accordance with claim 9 further comprising:
operating a pivoting assembly for pivoting said end section of the deck between a raised, generally horizontal position and lowered, angled position.

Claim 11 (Original): A method in accordance with claim 10 wherein said pivoting assembly is operated by winding a cable around a rotary mechanism to initiate rotation of a pivot arm assembly to further initiate movement of a cam mechanism for slidably supporting said end section.

Claim 12: (Original) A method in accordance with claim 10 wherein said pivoting assembly is operated by rotating a lever to initiate pivoting of a cam mechanism for slidably supporting said end section.